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OKLAHOMA VOCATIONAL RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT.

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ACTIVITIES OF THE OKLAHOMA VOCATIONAL RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT (RCU) ARE REPORTED FOR THE INITIAL FUNDING PERIOD FROM JULY 15, 1965 TO NOVEMBER 30, 1966. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE UNIT WERE COORDINATING RESEARCH, GENERATING NEW IDEAS, ASSISTING RESEARCHERS, AND DISSEMINATNG RESULTS. AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF VOCATIONAL TEACHERS AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES, AND A CONSULTING COMMITTEE REPRESENTING INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES WERE ESTABLISHED. LISTED ARE (1) RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS FOR EXAMPLE, (DEVELOPMENT OF A CURRICULUM GUIDE IN ELECTROMECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY), (2) PROPOSALS SUBMITTED UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 4(C) OF THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ACT OF 1963 (FOR EXAMPLE, A PILOT STUDY FOR GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT IN HOME ECONOMICS), (3) PROPOSALS APPROVED FOR EXAMPLE, (A SUMMER INSTITUTE TO TRAIN DATA PROCESSING TEACHERS), (4) PROPOSALS PENDING (FOR EXAMPLE, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FOR DISTRIBUTIVE EDUCATION CURRICULUMS), (5) RESEARCH PROJECTS APPROVED THROUGH OTHER AGENCIES (FOR EXAMPLE, SURVEY OF PHYSICAL DISABILITIES), (6) RESEARCH PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY THE RCU (FOR EXAMPLE, FOLLOWUP OF HOME ECONOMICS STUDENTS), AND (7) RESEARCH PROPOSALS BEING PREPARED (FOR EXAMPLE, PARAMEDICAL TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM). MANY OF THE LISTINGS ARE ANNOTATED. FINDINGS HAVE BEEN DISSEMINATED THROUGH (1) PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS BROCHURES, NEWSLETTERS, AND SUMMARIES, (2) STATE AND OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES, AND (3) ORAL REPORTS TO INTERESTED GROUPS. SOME 300 INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS HAVE BEEN ASSISTED BY THE RCU. (PS)

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FINAL REPORT

DR- Project ~~No.~~ 5-0139

Contract No. CE-5-85-129

OKLAHOMA

RCU VOCATIONAL RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT

July 15, 1965 - November 30, 1966

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Office of Education
Bureau of Research

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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OKLAHOMA VOCATIONAL RESEARCH
COORDINATING UNIT

Project No. 5-0139
Contract No. OE-5-85-129

Dr. William Stevenson

July 15, 1965 - November 30, 1966

The research reported herein was performed pursuant to a contract with the Office of Education, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Contractors undertaking such projects under Government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their professional judgment in the conduct of the project. Points of view or opinions stated do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Office of Education position or policy.

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074

FINAL REPORT
PROJECT NUMBER 5-0139
VOCATIONAL RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT FOR OKLAHOMA
July 15, 1966 - November 30, 1966

Introduction

Several factors working together brought about the formation of a Vocational Research Coordinating Unit in Oklahoma. Many people connected with vocational education in Oklahoma, as well as across the nation, had begun to realize that if our new found research capacity was to reach its greatest effectiveness, there must be direction, purpose, and coordination. Research, to the extent it was now being proposed, was new to most people in vocational education. True, some investigation had been done. Masters and Doctoral theses had been written, some professors of vocational education had contributed some very worthwhile work to the expansion of knowledge about their field, but no concentrated, well organized effort had been made to push back the frontiers of what we needed to know in order to meet the challenge facing us with the passage of the Vocational Educational Act of 1963.

If we are to respond to this clear statement of our nation's need we must open our minds to new thoughts, we must change our direction when it seems wise, and we must expand our approach to teaching. These words--new and change and expand--point clearly to the need for research; but research that is properly organized, directed, and coordinated. Hopefully the Research Unit in Oklahoma can assist with this organization, direction, and coordination of research in vocational education.

Objectives

1. Coordinating Research - The Research and Development unit will be clearing house for research proposals and ideas concerning occupational research throughout Oklahoma. It will aid agencies concerned with occupational research in knowing what is available in complete projects and what other agencies are doing. This information will be available from all states as well as Oklahoma. This will help avoid duplication and aid researchers to contact other people who are working on similar problems.

2. Generating New Ideas - An advisory committee from throughout Oklahoma composed of members of business, industry, labor, and education will be chosen to bring in problems from the field. This group of people will be representatives of all phases of occupational life in the state. The ideas and problems which they bring to focus will then be reviewed by the unit research staff and consultants to plan research programs to help solve the problems.

3. Assisting Researchers in Occupational Research - The unit will provide advisory assistance to research workers in the state to help them design and conduct programs. Proposals to be funded from other sources will be reviewed by members of the staff and consultants with suggestions given for their improvement. The unit will also keep up to date on possible sources of funds and advise the people concerned about these sources. A library of occupational research will be maintained for use of the state staff in vocational and technical education, Teacher Educators, and other interested persons.

4. Disseminating Results - The State Research Coordinating Unit will be the agency designed to disseminate results of occupational research conducted in Oklahoma.

Additional Objectives (Amendment December 1, 1965)

1. Provide additional assistance for researchers in vocational education in the area of research design and methodology.

2. Stimulate activities which will result in increased interest and improved competence in research, through individual and group consultation with occupational researchers.

3. Assist with design and analysis of research projects to be conducted by the staff of the Research Coordinating Unit.

4. Develop a procedure whereby relevant research findings may be disseminated to those individuals in vocational education who have need of, and will use, such information.

5. Develop curriculum guides and teaching materials as directed by research in vocational education.

Staffing

Dr. Bill W. Stevenson was appointed Director of the Research Coordinating Unit and Assistant Professor, College of Education, Oklahoma State University, July 15, 1965. Mr. Robert Walls was employed as a research assistant in Statistics and Computer Programming September 1, 1965. (one-half time) Mrs. Bill Collins was hired as a full-time secretary September 13, 1965.

This completed staffing of the Research Coordinating Unit as provided for in the original proposal. Upon submission of a supplemental proposal, additional personnel were authorized as follows: Dr. Don Frazier was appointed as Associate Research Specialist in Design and Methodology and Assistant Professor, College of Education, Oklahoma State University, January 1, 1966. Mrs. Dayna Breeden was hired as a half-time secretary January 17, 1966. Mrs. Linda Chadwick replaced Mrs. Collins as a full-time secretary July 1, 1966.

Advisory Committee

The following individuals have served as an Advisory Committee to the Vocational Research Coordinating Unit:

Mr. Clyde Quattlebaum, Vocational Agriculture Teacher	Vocational Agriculture
Mr. Bob Brown, Assistant State Supervisor	Vocational Business and Office Education
Mr. Ed Vaughn, D. E. Teacher Coordinator	Distributive Education
Mrs. Myrtle Thomas, Home Economics Instructor	Home Economics Education
Mrs. Edna Hill, Vocational School for Practical Nursing	Health Occupations Education
Mr. A. C. McQuigg, Northeastern A.& M College	Technical Training

Mr. Clyde Knight Trade and Industrial Instructor	Trade and Industrial Education
Mr. Jordan Reaves Sales Manager, Dulaneys	Business (Wholesale)
Mr. Reid Cox General Manager Oklahoma City Retailer Association	Business (Retail)
Mr. Jack Odom State Secretary, AFL-CIO	Organized Labor
Mr. Don Greve Sequoyah Mills	Manufacturing
Mr. Fred Ferrell, Jr. Elgin, Oklahoma	Agriculture
Miss Frances Waddel State Board for Nurse Registration and Nursing Education	Health Occupations

Consulting Committee

The following individuals have served as a Consulting Committee to the Vocational Research Coordinating Unit:

Dr. J. Paschal Twyman Associate Professor of Education and Associate Director of the Research Foundation, O.S.U.	Research Foundation, O.S.U.
Mr. Arch Alexander Supervisor of Special Services	Oklahoma State Department of Vocational Education
Dr. Solomon Sutker Professor of Sociology, O.S.U.	Behavioral Sciences
Dr. Maurice W. Roney Professor and Head, School of Industrial Education, O.S.U.	Vocational Technical Teacher Education, O.S.U.
Miss Mary Warren Professor and Chairman, School of Home Economics, O.U.	Vocational Teacher Education, O.U.
Mr. W. J. Bowman Chief, Research and Planning Division	Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

Research Projects in Progress

The following research projects were in progress under provisions of the Vocational Education Act of 1963, Section 4(c) at the time the Research Coordinating Unit was established:

A Research and Development Project in an Emerging Occupational Field--Electromechanical Technology (Phase 1)	
Development of a Curriculum Guide in Electromechanical Technology (Phase 2)	Dr. Maurice W. Roney Oklahoma State University

Project Completed - Final report now being prepared

An Exploratory Analysis of the Roles and Role Conflicts of Vocational Teachers in Oklahoma	Dr. Solomon Sutker, Dr. J. Paschal Twyman, and Dr. John Egermeier Oklahoma State University

Final report will be issued in February

Training Institute to Upgrade Teachers of Vocational Agriculture in Distributive Education and Supervised Training in Off-Farm Agricultural Occupations	Dr. William Lee Hull and Dr. E. D. Edington Oklahoma State University

The 1966 summer training institute to upgrade teachers of vocational agriculture in distributive education and supervised training in off-farm agricultural occupations was completed in August. The institute, which had thirty vocational agriculture teachers from tweleve states, was directed by Dr. William Hull of the Agricultural Education Department, Oklahoma State University, and was taught by two distributive education coordinators. Real progress in the implementation of programs in training for off-farm agricultural occupations should result from the training received at this institute.

Approaches in Assessing Needs for, Content of, and Factors to Consider in Offering Home Economics Courses for Gainful Employment	Dr. June Cozine Oklahoma State University

Completed - Final report issued

Conference to Identify Concepts Important to Youth Orientation to the World of Work	Dr. Mary A. Warren University of Oklahoma

Completed - Further work funded through State Department of Vocational Education

Training Programs for Teachers of Gainful Employment in Home Economics	Dr. June Cozine Oklahoma State University

Completed - Final report issued

Research Proposals Submitted

The following research proposals were reviewed and approved for submission for funds under provisions of Section 4(c) of the Vocational Education Act of 1963:

Proposal for Training Institute in Vocational Guidance for High School Counselors and Vocational Educational Advisors	Dr. William P. Ewens Oklahoma State University
Proposal for Training Institute in Vocational Guidance and Occupational Information for High School Counselors and Vocational Education Advisors	Dr. Joe Leone University of Oklahoma
Summer Institute to Train Data Processing Teachers for the New Oklahoma State-wide Computer Science System	Mr. Lee Hardwick State Board for Vocational Education
The Determinants of Labor Force Participation Rates, with Special Reference to the Ozark Low-Income Area	Dr. Robert L. Sandmeyer Oklahoma State University
Additional Resources for the Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education in Oklahoma	Dr. William Stevenson Oklahoma State University
A Pilot Study for Gainful Employment in Home Economics	Dr. June Cozine Oklahoma State University
High School Institute in Marketing and Distribution for Distributive Education Students	Mr. Ted Best State Board for Vocational Education
An Experiment in Varying the Timing of Reinforcement by Knowledge of Correct Response in the Teaching of Selected Related Learnings in Transcription Classes	Mrs. Arnola Bose Oklahoma State University
Communication of Concepts Important for Youth Orientation to the World of Work	Miss Mary Warren Oklahoma University

Continuation of Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education in Oklahoma	Dr. William Stevenson Oklahoma State University
An Analysis of the Personal, Social, and Economic Characteristics of Vocational-Technical School Trainees	Mr. Gordon Von Stroh University of Oklahoma
Center for the Development and Demonstration of a Learning Materials System in Vocational Agriculture	Dr. Ray Agan Kansas State University with: Oklahoma State University Texas A and M University Texas Technological College
Summer Institute to Train Data Processing Teachers for the Oklahoma State-wide Computer Science System Phase II	Dr. Francis Tuttle Mr. Bill Powers State Department of Vocational Education
Project Development for Distributive Education Curricula	Mrs. Lucille Patton Oklahoma State University

Research Proposals Approved

The following proposals were approved by the Division of Adult and Vocational Research, U. S. Office of Education, for funding under provisions of Section 4(c) of the Vocational Education Act of 1963.

Summer Institute to Train Data Processing Teachers for the New Oklahoma State-wide Computer Science System	Mr. Lee Hardwick State Board for Vocational Education

The summer institute for 1966 has been completed with thirty-five trainees from eight states. A second proposal for the summer of 1967 has been submitted. The success of the first institute and the need for trained data processing teachers would seem to justify approval of an additional summer institute.

Additional Resources for the Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education in Oklahoma	Dr. William Stevenson Oklahoma State University

Additional funds for the Oklahoma Research Coordinating Unit has made it possible to increase personnel and provide additional services to vocational education research.

A Pilot Study for Gainful Employment in Home Economics	Dr. June Cozine Oklahoma State University

This pilot study for gainful employment in home economics was begun in September in Stillwater public schools.

Continuation of Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education in Oklahoma — Dr. William Stevenson, Oklahoma State University

The Research Coordinating Unit has been funded through June 30, 1968, with support from the U. S. Office of Education, State Board for Vocational Education and Oklahoma State University.

Proposal Outline:

1. Director - Bill Stevenson
2. Associate Research Specialist in Research Design - Don Frazier
   a. Assist researchers with design and methodology of research
   b. Assist with writing of proposals to U. S. Office of Education
3. Research Assistant In Statistics (one-half time)
4. Three Research Assistants (one-half time)
   a. Work with State Department to determine information needed for evaluation
      1. Follow-up studies
      2. Occupational opportunities
      3. Feed-back from employers and trainees
5. Secretarial help

Research Proposals Pending

The following research proposals are still under consideration by the Division of Adult and Vocational Research, U. S. Office of Education.

An Analysis of the Personal, Social, and Economic Characteristics of Vocational-Technical School Trainees — Mr. Gordon Von Stroh, University of Oklahoma

Center for the Development and Demonstration of a Learning Materials System in Vocational Agriculture — Dr. Ray Agan, Kansas State University with: Oklahoma State University, Texas A & M University, Texas Technological College

Summer Institute to Train Data Processing Teachers for the Oklahoma State-wide Computer Science System, Phase II	Dr. Francis Tuttle Mr. Bill Powers State Department of Vocational Education
Project Development for Distributive Education Curricula	Mrs. Lucille Patton Oklahoma State University

Research Projects Approved Through Other Agencies

Oklahoma Survey of Physical Disabilities	Michael Bohleber, Project Director Oklahoma State University

Part of a vocational rehabilitation project to provide training for handicapped persons in Oklahoma through 1975. Sub-contracted from Rehabilitation Department through Research Coordinating Unit to Research Foundation, Oklahoma State University. Data collected, analysis nearing completion. Report will be made in January.

A Proposal for a Manpower Research Program at Oklahoma State University	Dr. Robert L. Sandmeyer U. S. Department of Labor
The Determinants of Labor Force Participation Rates	Dr. Robert L. Sandmeyer Oklahoma State University
Analysis of Job Satisfaction of Employed Youth Involved in Experimental School Dropout Rehabilitation Program in Oklahoma City	Dr. Gaylen R. Wallace U. S. Department of Labor
A Cooperative Analysis of the Impact of Various Types of Curricula on the Vocational Success of School Dropouts	Mr. Gerald E. Boggs U. S. Department of Labor
Generalizations Related to Concepts Important for Youth Orientation to the World of Work	Miss Mary Warren University of Oklahoma

Funded by State Board for Vocational Education

Research Projects Conducted by Research Coordinating Unit

A Study of Personnel Needs and Supply in Vocational Education

Report published and distributed to other Research Coordinating Units, State Directors of Vocational Education, Vocational Teacher Training Departments and U. S. Office of Education personnel.

A Study of the Plans of High School Students

State Agencies Cooperating and Supporting this study:

Oklahoma State Tech
Oklahoma Association of School Administrators
Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education
Oklahoma Employment Security
State Department of Education
State Department of Vocational Education
State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
Vocational Research Coordinating Unit
Oklahoma Council of Educational Administration

Study will be completed and report made early in 1967.

Completed Study of Off-Farm Agricultural Occupations

Sponsored by the State Department of Vocational Education and Oklahoma State University. Report distributed to Oklahoma vocational agriculture teachers, State Department personnel, and other Research Coordinating Units.

Follow-up of Home Economics students

Assistance to State Supervisor and home economics teachers in collection and analysis of follow-up data, fall, 1966.

Evaluation of Transparencies in Trade and Industrial Education

Sets of transparencies in cosmetology, electricity, welding and auto mechanics have been developed by Oklahoma City Schools Manpower Project. All Oklahoma City teachers in the four skill areas are now using the transparencies in their instructional programs.

The cosmetology transparencies have been revised and edited by teachers and have been distributed to all public school cosmetology teachers in Oklahoma. The RCU is directing the evaluation of the use of the cosmetology projectuals as they are being used under controlled conditions in an evaluation of design. Results of the evaluation will be reported early in 1967.

Sets of transparencies in electricity, and welding have been made available by the RCU to three selected teachers in each skill area outside the Oklahoma City schools. After the teachers have used them during the 1966-67 school year, the RCU will conduct a conference with the teachers to refine and edit the sets and correlate them with the state course of study. The visuals will be distributed to all public school welding, electricity and electronics teachers in Oklahoma for use during the 1967-68 school year and made available with results of the evaluation early in 1968.

The set of auto mechanics transparencies have not as yet been reproduced for teacher use. We expect to be able to refine and edit them so that they will be ready for distribution on the schedule indicated above for the welding and electronics sets.

Research Projects Conducted by the Research Coordinating Unit

Follow-up Study of Vocational Students

The RCU in cooperation with the State Department of Vocational Education is developing a computerized follow-up procedure which will provide information on all graduates and trainees of all vocational programs in Oklahoma. The initial study will cover the years 1963 to 1966 with similiar information added each following year. Complete placement and follow-up information will be available on each vocational student.

Special Curriculum Committee on Vocational Agriculture

The State Department of Vocational Education, the RCU, and the Department of Agricultural Education at Oklahoma State University cooperated in the evaluation and revision of lesson plans and curriculum in vocational agriculture. Twenty teachers of vocational agriculture were brought in to a two-day workshop at Oklahoma State University. These workshop participants, with the assistance of the RCU, State supervisory personnel, and teacher education personnel, evaluated and revised some 400 lesson plans. These lesson plans will be made available to all vocational agriculture teachers in Oklahoma.

Research Proposals Being Prepared

Paramedical Teacher Education Program

For the past several months, Dr. Frazier has been working with Charles McDaniels and Jacob Johnson from the Oklahoma University Center for Continuing Education; Dr. James L. Dennis, Director of the University of Oklahoma Medical Center and Dean of the School of Medicine; and Dr. Thomas C. Points, Director of the Health Intelligence Facility, in the preparation of a proposal to develop a system of paramedical education to serve the five state area including Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Much ground work has been laid to assure that the system is feasible, and the proposal is near completion.

A Total Community Approach to Solving the Educational and Cultural Problems of Indian Children in Selected Oklahoma Schools

Many of the Indian students in Oklahoma's public schools are not benefitting fully from their educational opportunities. This is demonstrated in high drop-out rates, poor attendance, lack of participation, and lack of vocational training. This proposal would initiate a special pre-vocational, work-orineted class at the seventh and eighth grade level aimed at correcting the special problems faced by Indian children.

Dissemination of Research Findings

Summary of Research in Vocational Education
Distributed to all Oklahoma vocational teachers.

Job Title Profiles in Off-Farm Agricultural Occupations
Distributed to Oklahoma vocational agriculture teachers, Research Coordinating Units, Agricultural Education Departments, and Vocational Agriculture Supervisors.

Employment Opportunities and Training Needs in Off-Farm Agricultural Occupations
Distributed to Oklahoma vocational agriculture teachers, Research Coordinating Units, Agricultural Education Departments, and Vocational Agriculture Supervisors.

Personnel Needs and Supply in Vocational Education
Distributed to State Directors of Vocational Education, Vocational Teacher Training Departments, Research Coordinating Units, and U. S. Office of Education personnel.

Brochure on Oklahoma Vocational Research Coordinating Unit
Distributed to all interested parties.

Vocational Education Information Newsletter
Distributed bi-monthly to all Oklahoma vocational teachers and other interested parties.

Out-of-State Meetings and Conferences

Research Coordinating Unit Clinic; Washington, D. C.; July 20-30, 1965
Stevenson

National Seminar on Agricultural Education Program Development and Research; Ohio State University; August 9-13, 1965
Stevenson

Agricultural Occupations Summarization Meeting; Ohio State University; January 31-February 4, 1966
Stevenson and Frazier

Conference on Proposal for the Development and Demonstration of a Learning Materials Center; Kansas State University; June 1, 1966
Stevenson

Southern Regional Conference on Vocational Education; Dallas, Texas
Stevenson

Southern Regional Research Committee; North Carolina State University; July 27-29, 1966
Stevenson

National Seminar on Cooperative Education; Ohio State University; August 1-5, 1966
Frazier

RCU Directors Meeting; Washington, D. C.; September 21-23, 1966
Stevenson

Southwest Educational Laboratory; Albuquerque, New Mexico RCU; Sante Fe, New Mexico; October 11-13, 1966
Stevenson

McREL (Mid-Continent Research Educational Laboratory); Kansas City, Missouri; Advisory Committee on Vocational Technical Education; November 7, 1966
Stevenson

Conference on Expansion of Paola School Project; Paola, Kansas; November 15, 1966
Stevenson

State-Wide Meetings and Conferences on Vocational Education

Planning Session for Supplementary Educational Center; Oklahoma City Schools

Director of Research Coordinating Unit will serve on Evaluation Committee

Research Seminar - Seminar on Research for those attending Research Conferences Sponsored by Cornell University through U. S. Office of Education
Dr. June Cozine - Curriculum Development
Dr. John Egermeier - Research Design
Mr. Arch Alexander - Occupational Mobility and Migration
Dr. Bob Griffith - Tests and Measurements
Dr. William Hull - AERA Meeting
Dr. Bill Stevenson - Development and Coordination of Research
Dr. Don Frazier - Research by State Research Coordinating Unit
Dr. Larry Hayes - Representing College of Education
(Additional meeting of this group has been suggested and will be arranged by the Research Coordinating Unit)

Oklahoma Commission on Education Administration
(Report on Research in Vocational Education)

Meeting of Oklahoma Adult Education Association

One-Day Workshops for Guidance and Counseling Personnel

Reports on Research in Vocational Education

Personnel of the Research Coordinating Unit have appeared before the following groups to report on research in Vocational Education:

Summer Conference for Vocational Agriculture Teachers

Summer Workshop for Vocational Business and Office Education Teachers

Summer Conference for Vocational Trade and Industrial Teachers

Oklahoma Vocational Association Meeting

Conference for Distributive Education Teachers

Summer Conference for Vocational Home Economics Teachers

Vocational Agriculture Summer Institute

Civic Club; Minco, Oklahoma

Mid-Winter Conference for Vocational Agriculture Teachers

FFA Leadership Training Conference

Delta Pi Epsilon - Professors and Graduate Students in Business Education

Oklahoma Technical Society

Vocational Guidance and Counseling One-Day Workshops

Oklahoma Vocational Association Meeting - T&I Section, Report on Follow-Up Study

Other Activities

Developed set of slides and script on Off-Farm Agricultural Occupations (150 sets distributed nationally)

Developing set of slides and script on Vocational Education (will be available for use in Oklahoma and nationally)

Director served on National Committee on Summarization of Research in Off-Farm Agricultural Occupations
Contributed to following publications:

Summary of Research Findings in Off-Farm Agricultural Occupations; Ohio State University; August, 1965

Occupational Guidance for Off-Farm Agriculture; Ohio State University; December, 1965

The Research Foundation, Oklahoma State University, and the Research Institute, Oklahoma University, in cooperation with the RCU are compiling vita information on all staff members interested in doing research in vocational education.

Two groups have been organized at Oklahoma State University to discuss research in education and vocational education. The Research Information Exchange Committee meets bi-monthly to hear reports on on-going research projects. The Research Committee meets on call to discuss new research ideas and to keep informed on priorities in educational research.

During October and November of 1966, Bill Stevenson and Don Frazier held one-day conferences with administrative and vocational-technical staff at each of the following Oklahoma colleges:

Northeastern Oklahoma A & M College Northeastern State College

Connors State Agricultural College
Panhandle A & M College
Northwestern State College
Southwestern State College
Murray State Agricultural College
El Reno Junior College
Eastern Oklahoma A & M College
East Central State College
Southwestern State College
Cameron State Agricultural College
Northern Oklahoma College

Purposes of the conferences were (1) to establish communications and working relationships with college teachers and administrators who are interested in and/or working in vocational-technical education--but who are not, because of state regulations, directly supported or supervised by the State Board for Vocational Education, and (2) to orient them to the purposes and services of the RCU.

Assistance to Researchers in Vocational Education

Individual Conferences with Researchers in Vocational Education (275)

Group Planning Conferences on Proposals for Research in Vocational Education (65)

Group Planning Conferences on Research in Vocational Education (50)

Talks to groups on Research in Vocational Education (38)

State-wide meetings with Other Education Groups (5)

Visits to Local Schools (60)

Out-of-state Conferences and Meetings (12)

Mr. Walls' work with Researchers and Project Directors on Statistics and Analysis of Data (22)

Individuals doing research in Vocational-Technical Education for Masters or Doctors Degree who have had assistance from the Research Coordinating Unit (18)

Visits by U. S. Office of Education Personnel

The Research Coordinating Unit for Oklahoma was privileged to have visits by Dr. John Bean, Project Officer, and Dr. Otto Legg, Research Specialist. These men gave assistance and suggestions which have proven valuable to the Unit. It is hoped that this practice will be continued and increased in the future.

Observations

The preceding report is an attempt to take an objective look at the activities of the Research Coordinating Unit for Oklahoma. Such a report can only partially record the progress which the Unit has made toward reaching its stated objectives. A more subjective view is necessary, though harder to bring into focus, if a complete analysis is to be made of the accomplishments and contributions which the Unit has made to vocational research.

Briefly, the objectives as stated in the proposal were:

1. Coordinating research
2. Generating new ideas
3. Assisting researchers
4. Disseminating results

The first part of this report, which deals with numbers of activities, proposals, meetings, etc., gives some indication of the effectiveness of the Research Coordinating Unit in reaching these stated goals. There are, however, certain other benefits which have resulted that are not so easily enumerated. The following observations are an attempt to point up some of these less concrete results:

1. Sufficient change in behavior and attitude of vocational teachers may be observed to conclude that they have become increasingly aware of the contribution which research can and is making to improvement in teaching.

2. During the period of time the Research Coordinating Unit has been in operation, an increasing number of individuals and agency representatives have become aware of and have voluntarily offered to work with the Unit.

3. Through the efforts of the Research Coordinating Unit, personnel of State Agencies interested in the improvement of education have cooperated in a united effort to solve educational problems.

4. Educators and researchers are becoming increasingly aware of the services of the Research Coordinating Unit and are availing themselves of these services as well as referring other researchers to the Unit for assistance.

5. Graduate students and experienced researchers from vocational education and other disciplines are beginning to seek the advice of the Research Coordinating Unit staff for assistance in identifying research problems in vocational education.

Priorities for Improved Services to Vocational Research

One primary purpose of such a report should be not only to record what has been done but to determine those activities which should receive greater emphasis in order to assure increased benefits to vocational education. As the past year's work is reviewed, certain areas of activities appear to require more concentrated effort on the part of the personnel of the Unit. Some of these areas recognized as needing increased attention are included below. It is hoped that those reviewing this report will give special attention to this section in order that the Research Coordinating Unit may have the benefit of their thinking on how the Unit may render greater service to vocational education in the area of research.

1. Greater assistance to State Department of Vocational Education in obtaining information necessary to effectively evaluate programs.

2. Increased role as coordinator of research through more effective communication of current, relevant research findings to researchers, leaders, and teachers in vocational education.

3. Increased involvement of vocational teachers in applicable phases of the research process.

4. Increased involvement of researchers from other diciplines toward the solution of problems in vocational education.

5. More effective translation of research findings into guidelines which will result in changed and improved programs of vocational education.